

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. Amendments to the specification and claims:

Paragraph [0016] of the specification has been amended to correct a typographical error. This amendment of changing “optical disk drive 30” to become
5 “optical pickup head 30” is supported in paragraphs [0006] and [0007]. No new matter is added.

Independent claims 1 and 4 have been amended to more clearly claim the features of the present invention. Each of these claims now recites that a control
10 signal is generated using a switch circuit, and the control circuit is provided to first and second nodes for controlling circuits on both the first and second circuit boards. These amendments are fully supported by the specification and figures 2 and 3, and no new matter is added.

15 2. Rejection of claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b):

Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kurebayashi et al. (US 2002/0136120).

Response:

20 Claim 1 has been amended to overcome these claim rejections. Claim 1 now contains the limitations of generating a control signal with a switch circuit located on a first circuit board and transmitting the control signal from a first node on a first circuit board to a second node on a second circuit board through a conducting line of a flexible cable. Pins of first and second control chips, respectively located on the
25 first and second circuit boards, are connected to the first and second nodes receiving the control signal.

On the other hand, Kurebayashi does not teach first and second circuit boards, where the first circuit board contains a switch circuit for generating a control signal according to an input signal. Kurebayashi also does not teach transmitting the control signal from a first node of the first circuit board to a second node of the second circuit board through a flexible cable. Finally, Kurebayashi does not teach connecting a pin of a first control chip located on the first circuit board to the first node and connecting a pin of a second control chip located on the second circuit board to the second node so that the first and second control chips are controlled by the same control signal.

Instead, Kurebayashi teaches that a controller 2 is connected to a laser drive unit 1 through a flexible cable. Kurebayashi does not teach that the controller 2 and the laser drive unit 1 are respectively located on first and second circuit boards. In addition, Kurebayashi does not teach that the same control signal is provided to both the controller 2 and the laser drive unit 1 for controlling both of these devices.

For these reasons, Kurebayashi fails to teach all of the limitations of currently amended independent claim 1, and claim 1 is therefore patentably distinct from Kurebayashi. Reconsideration of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

3. Rejection of claims 2 and 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

Claims 2 and 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurebayashi et al. (US 2002/0136120).

Response:

Independent claim 4 has been amended similar to claim 1. In addition, claim 4 also contains the limitation of “connecting an input of a NOT gate to the second node” and “connecting a pin of a second control chip located on the second circuit

board to an output of the NOT gate for receiving a logical inverse of the control signal.”

5 In addition to the limitations of claim 1 mentioned above, Kurebayashi also does not teach the use of a NOT gate for providing the logical inverse of the control signal to the pin of the second control pin. Therefore, claim 4 is patentable over the cited prior art. Claims 2 and 5 are dependent on claims 1 and 4, and should be allowed if their respective base claims are allowed. Reconsideration of claims 2, 4, and 5 is respectfully requested.

10 Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Sincerely yours,

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25 is 12 hours behind the Taiwan time, i.e. 9 AM in D.C. = 9 PM in Taiwan.)